AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

An amended sequence listing is attached hereto. No new matter is added.

In the Specification on page 15 beginning at line 32, please replace the current paragraph with the following:

Attachment of the specific ER retention signals SEKDEL (SEQ ID NO: 3)(Schouten, A. et al., Plant Mol. Biol. 30 (1996), 781–792), may, inter alia, be of importance for advantageous high–level expression, thus tripling to quadrupling the average level of expression. It is also possible to employ other retention signals which occur naturally with plant and animal proteins localized in the ER for constructing the cassette.

In the Specification on page 27 beginning at line 36, please replace the current paragraph with the following:

A: TGGTGGAA(A/G)TGGA(C/A)ICA(T/C)AA (SEQ ID NO: 4) and

B: GG(A/G)AA(A/C/G/T)A(A/G)(G/A)TG(G/A)TG(C/T)TC] (SEQ ID NO: 5)

In the Specification on page 28 beginning at line 11, please replace the current paragraph with the following:

C: CCGAGTCGCGGATCAGCC (SEQ ID NO: 6)

D: CAGTACATTCGGTCATTCACC: (SEQ ID NO: 7)

In the Specification on page 29 beginning at line 8, please replace the current paragraph with the following:

Primer TG5: 5'– ccgctcgagcgaggttgttgtggagcggc (SEQ ID NO: 8) and

Primer TG3: 5`–ctgaaatagtcttgctcc–3' (SEQ ID NO: 9)

In the Specification on page 30 beginning at line 10, please replace the current paragraph with the following and please note, underlining is in the original:

Pp_d6Des1: 5'– CC GGTACC aaaatggtattcgcgggcggtg –3' (SEQ ID NO: 10)

Pp_d6Des2: 3'– CC GGTACC ttaactggtggtagcatgct –3' (SEQ ID NO: 11)

In the Specification on page 30 beginning at line 33, please replace the current paragraph with the following:

For the transformation of plants, a further transformation vector based on pBin–USP was

generated, and this transformation vector contains the D6–desaturase BaMHI fragment. pBin–USP is a derivative of plasmid pBin19. pBinUSP originated from pBin19, by inserting an USP promoter into pBin19 [Bevan et al. (1980) Nucl. Acids Res. 12, 8711] as EcoRI–BamHI fragment. The polyadenylation signal is that of gene 3 of the T–DNA of the Ti–plasmid pTiACH5 (Gielen et al., (1984) EMBO J. 3, 835), where the nucleotides 11749–11939 were isolated as PvuII–HindIII fragment and, after the addition of SphI–linkers, cloned at the PvuII cleavage site between the SpHI–HindIII cleavage site of the vector. The USP promoter corresponds to the nucleotides 1–684 (Genbank Accession X56240), where part of the noncoding region of the USP gene was obtained in the promoter. The promoter fragment which is 684 base pairs in size was amplified with the aid of commercially available T7 standard primer (Stratagene) and with the aid of a synthesized primer via a PCR reaction using standard methods (primer sequence: 5'-GTCGACCCGCGGACTAGTGGGCCCTCTAGACCCGGGGGATCC GGATCTGCTGGCTATGAA-3') (SEQ ID NO: 12). The PCR fragment was subsequently cut with EcoRI/SalI and inserted into the vector pBin19 with OCS terminator. This gave rise to the plasmid named pBinUSP.